

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace Paragraph [0022] with the following new paragraph:

[000022] As discussed above, the multi-layered flooring composite 1 can include a moisture-proof film barrier 27 that is preferably positioned below the beads 9 of the acoustic layer 5 as in FIG. 1. However, the flooring composite 1 of the present invention can be used without a film layer 27 or the film layer 27 can be positioned above the beads 9 as illustrated in FIG. 3 or both above and below the beads 9.

Preferably, the flooring composite 1 does have such a moisture-proof film 27 (e.g., 0.010 to 0.030 inches thick) positioned below the beads 9 as in FIG. 1. Consequently, any moisture (e.g., water) passing through the top floor layer 3 (e.g., through joint cracks 31 in FIG. 1) will be received in the ambient air spaces (e.g., 33) between the adjacent beads 9 and prevented by the film 27 from passing down to the subfloor 7. The air spaces of the acoustic layer 5 in this regard are in fluid communication with one another essentially throughout ~~thorough-out~~ the entire acoustic layer 5.

Consequently, any such moisture will be drawn or flow downwardly away from the top floor layer 3 and be dissipated or evaporated in the air volume of the interstitial spaces 33 between the beads 9. Moisture damage (e.g., rot) to the material of the top floor layer 3 can then be avoided as can any such damage to the subfloor 7.